

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 have been examined and rejected. The present response amends claims 1, 6, 11, and 15. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Webb (U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0075546) in view of Morey (U.S. Patent No. 5,007,705). In response, independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 15 have been amended to recite that the passband used for filtering a modulated signal encompasses a carrier of the modulated signal. By contrast, the sideband filtering scheme of Webb includes the modulated signal carrier in a transition between a passband and a stopband. Apparently, only 50% of the carrier power is included in the modulated output signal. This spectral characteristic of the Webb output signal is intimately connected to the control scheme disclosed therein. Webb teaches balancing the transmitted and reflected power of its optical filter to achieve the necessary relationship between filter response and laser output frequency. Since the transmitted and reflected powers are to be equal, not only will the undesired sideband be heavily attenuated but 50% of the carrier will also be lost. The present invention, as recited by the amended claims, preserves more of the carrier.

Since the cited relationship between passband and carrier is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, claims 1, 6, 11, and 15 are allowable over the art of record. Claims 2-5, 7-10, and 12-14 are allowable for at least the reason of their dependence from the allowable claims.

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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 446-8694.

Respectfully submitted,


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